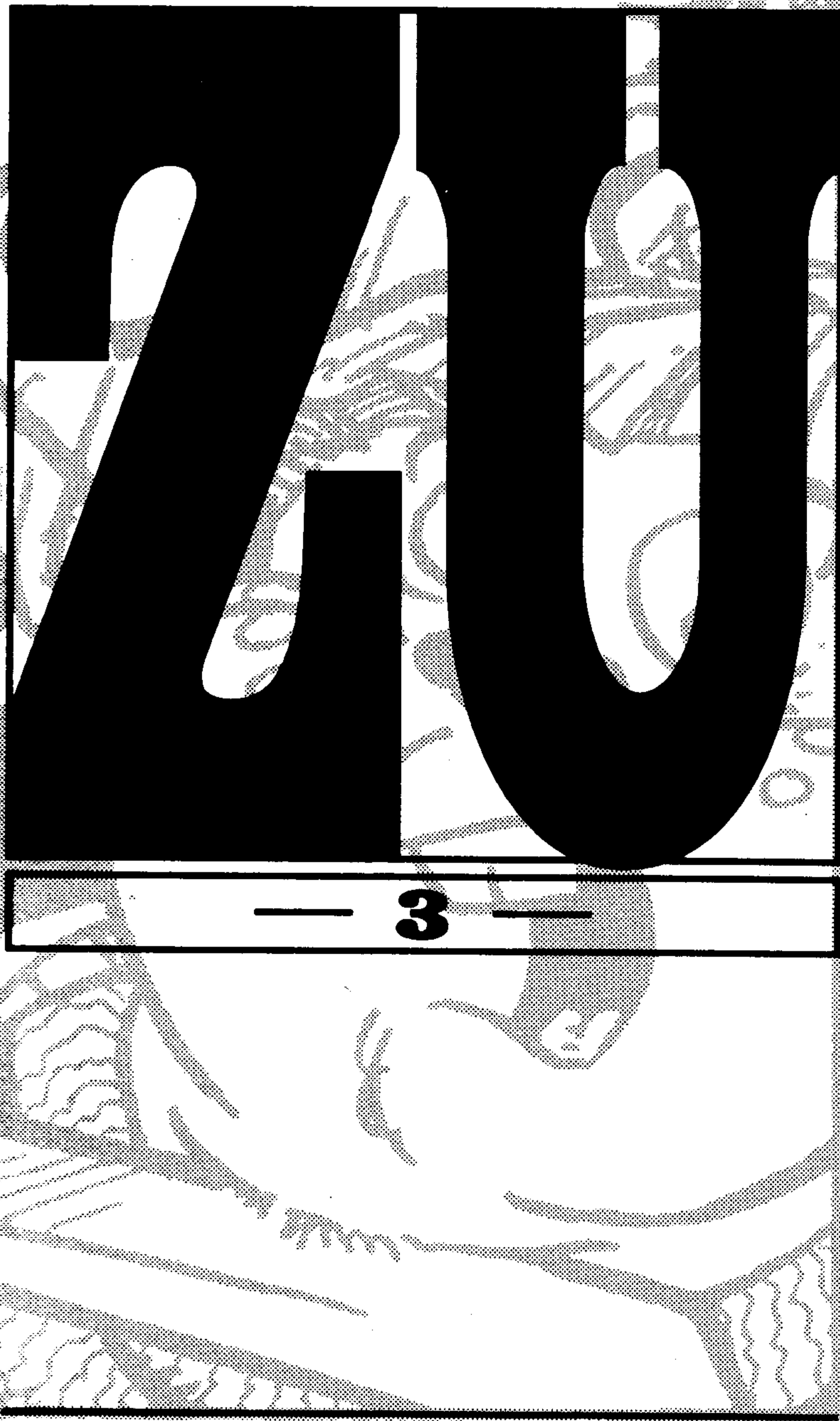


...IF
You SAY
SO...

Editor

Chuck Melville



ZU 3 (ISSN 1079-1426) May, 1995. Published by MU PRESS, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. "Sergei: An Old Story" ©1995 Darko Macan; "The Dog Laundry" ©1995 Marc Schirmeister & Kjaratan Arnorsson; "Robert & Katrina: Deadline Blues" ©1995 Kris Kreutzman; "Zonie" ©1995 Michael-Scot McMurry. All rights reserved. No material herein may be copied or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior consent of the creator(s) (excepting purposes of review). This is a work of fiction. Any similarity between names, characters, and/or persons herein and any persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Huck sings Poochini in the showers. First Printing. MU Pubs #246

Third time's the charm, they say; of course, they also say *Three on a match*, which is neither here nor there. But here's our third issue, none the worse for wear, and finally on track with its regular schedule.

Sergei returns with the continuation of his adventures as a mercenary, and we see that even one as renowned as he is sometimes has difficulties getting the proper respect -- or too much of it.

To balance the more serious Sergei storyline, we have a light-hearted romp down to the "Dog Laundry", and then a couple of pages with our regulars, "Robert & Katrina", and the Inimitable "Zonie".

Ned & Huck



(c) 1995 Marc Schirmeister & Kjartan Arnorsson

In just two months!

Another Sergei story by Darko Macan; Paul Kidd and Terry Loh present Sandhri the Storyteller in a prelude to the FANGS OF K'AATH series; and Roy Pounds gives us a silent fable in "The Shapeshifter's Tail".

Still On Sale!

Wild Kingdom #4 Hard to believe, but there it is! A new issue of adult-rated furry stories by: Chuck Melville, Ethan Reese-Whiting, James Ernest, Paul Kidd and Terry Loh. You must be twenty-one to read these!

Next Month:

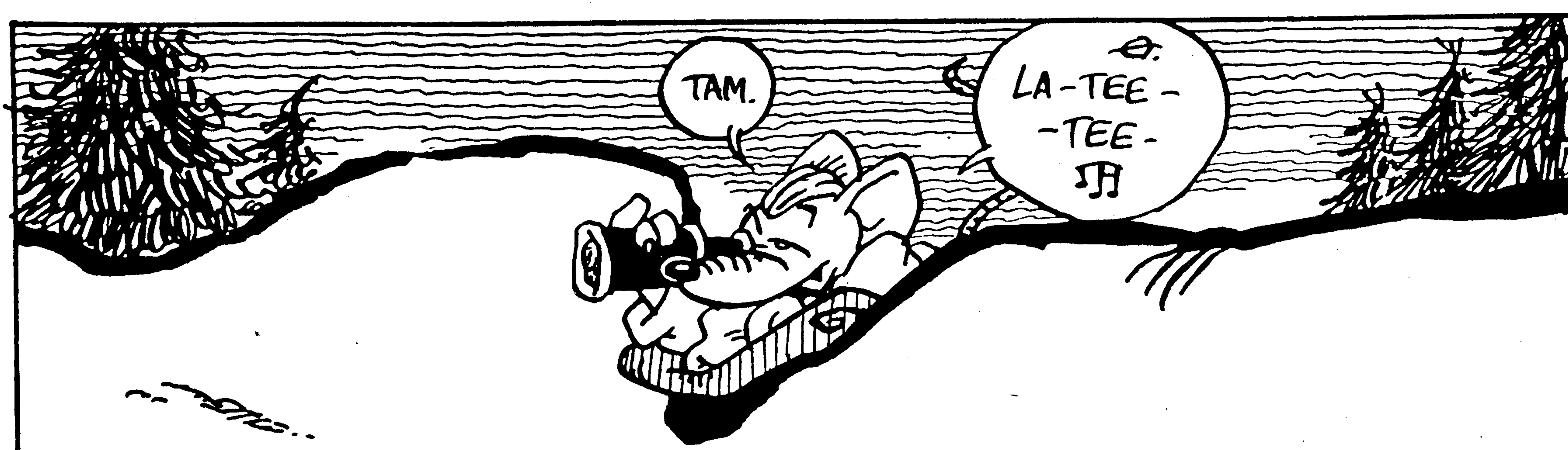
Mechanimoids X Snowbuni returns for a tenth anniversary special, in stories and pin-ups by Jeff Wood, Mike Sagara, Michele Light, and others.

Champion of Katara: Dum-Dums and Dragons #1 What happened between issue #1 (*Crack O'Dawn*) and issue #1 (*MU Press*)? Here's the untold story, when Lee and Nightwalker go dragon-hunting. Art and story by Chuck Melville.

Where, oh where has my Zonie gone?

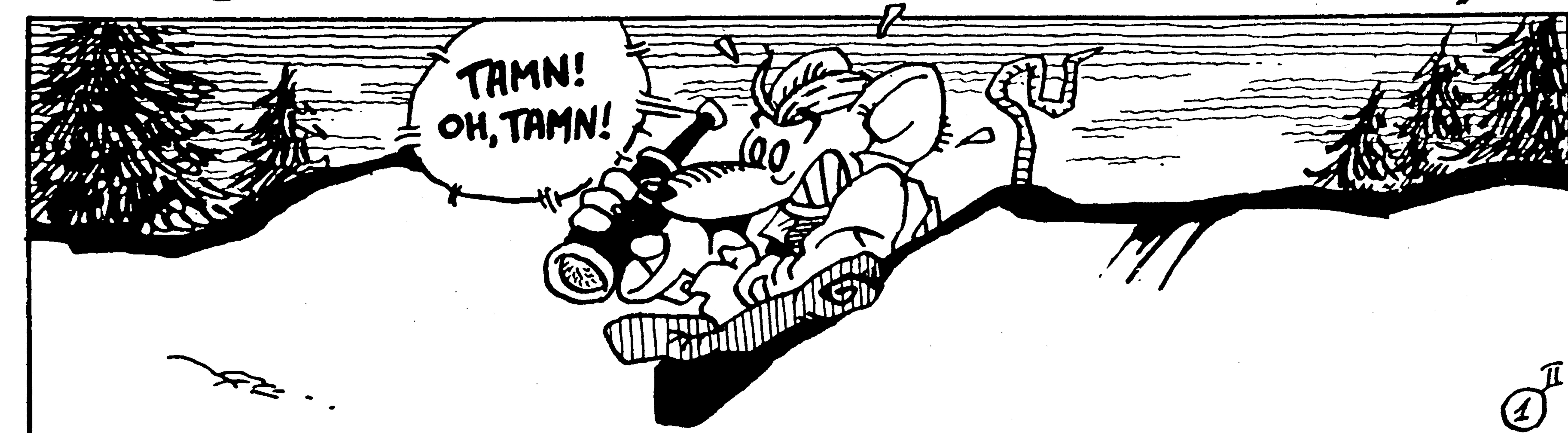
For those who were wondering what had happened to the introductory Zonie strip in the last issue, the answer is — I goofed! When I assembled the final pages and wrote up the job ticket for the printer, I inadvertently set the Zonie strip aside and proceeded without it. This could only happen to a coyote! My humblest apologies to Mike McMurry. Zonie makes his delayed introduction in this issue.

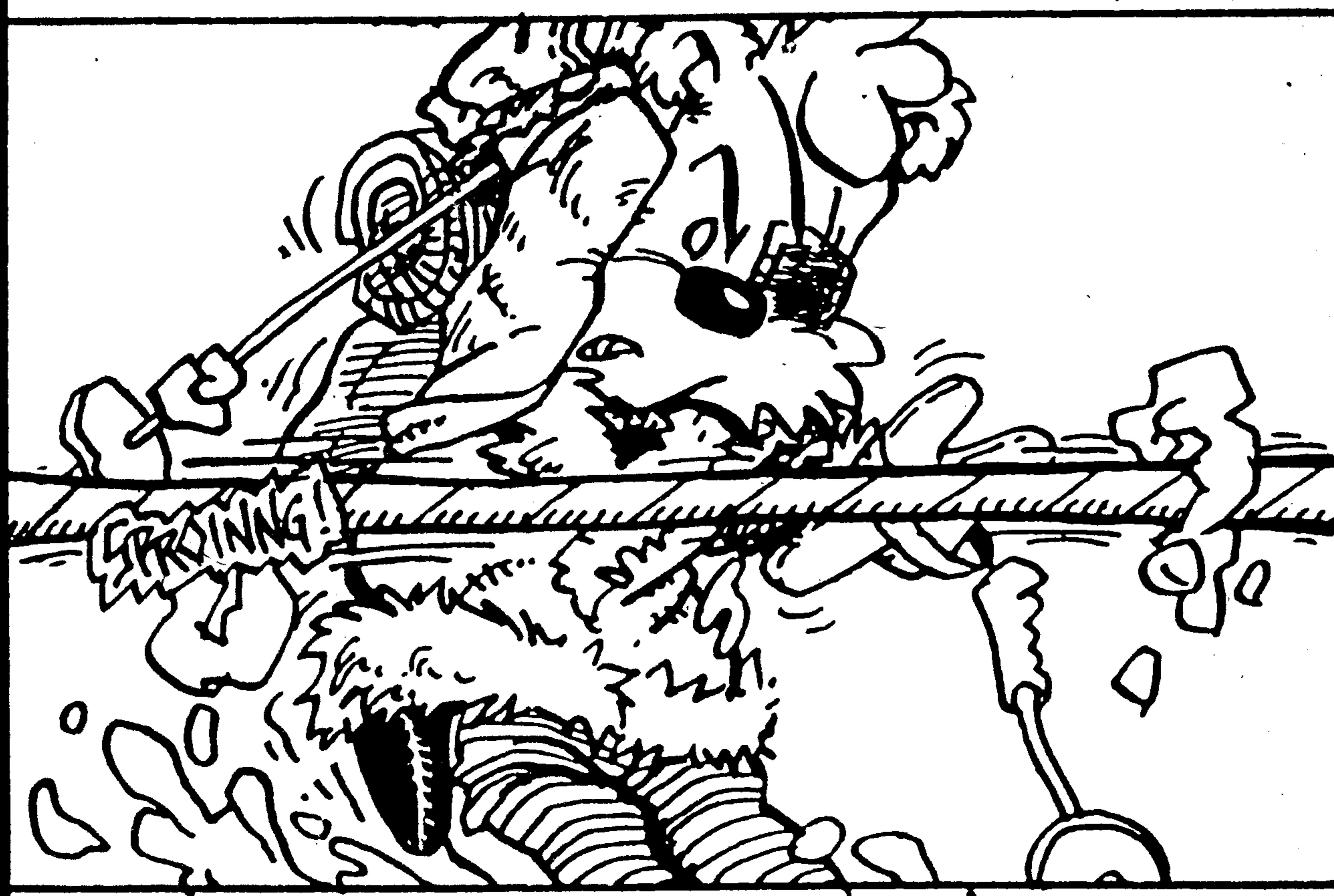
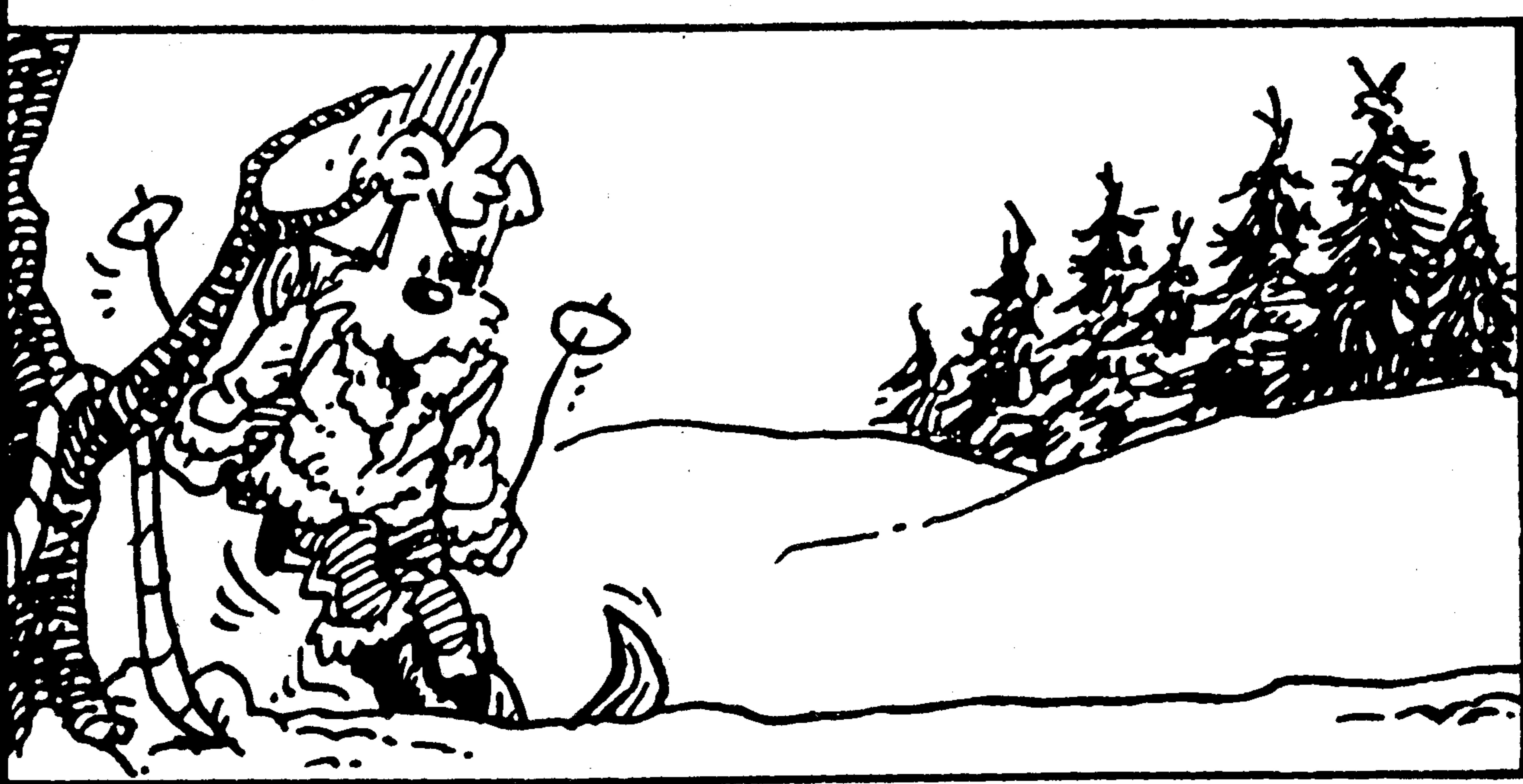





Sergei: AN OLD STORY

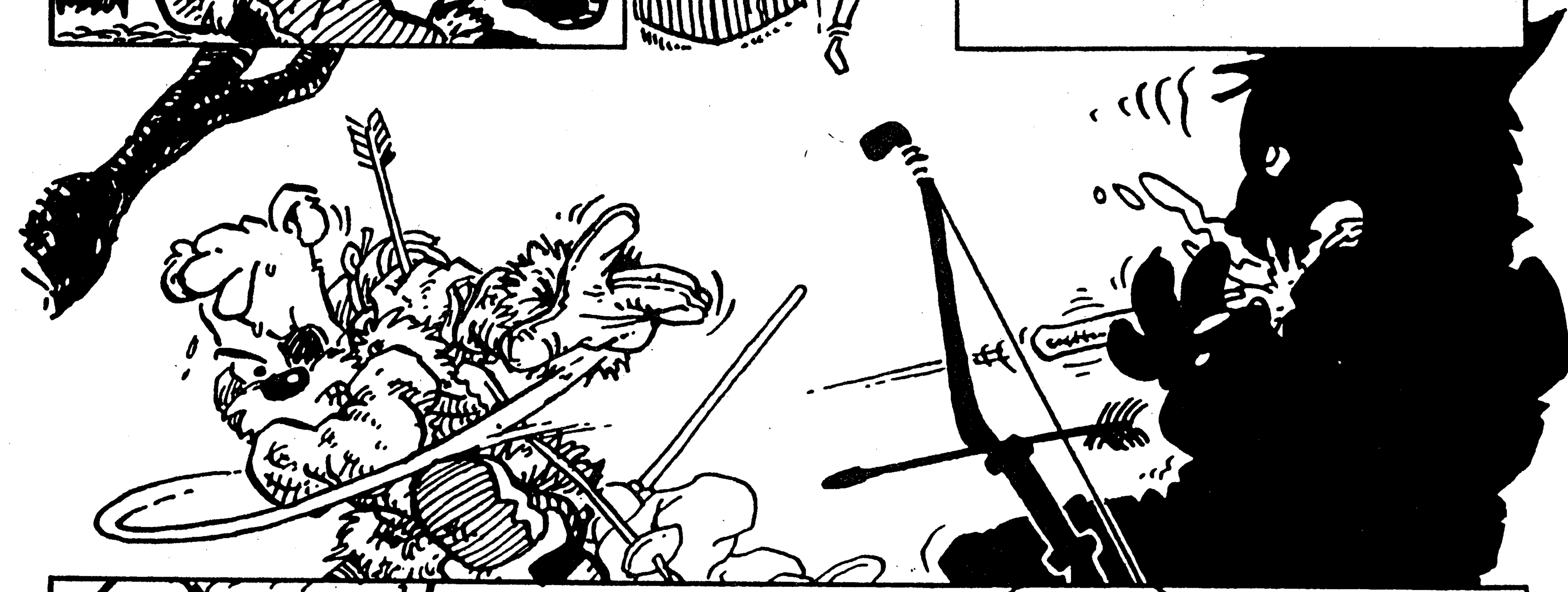
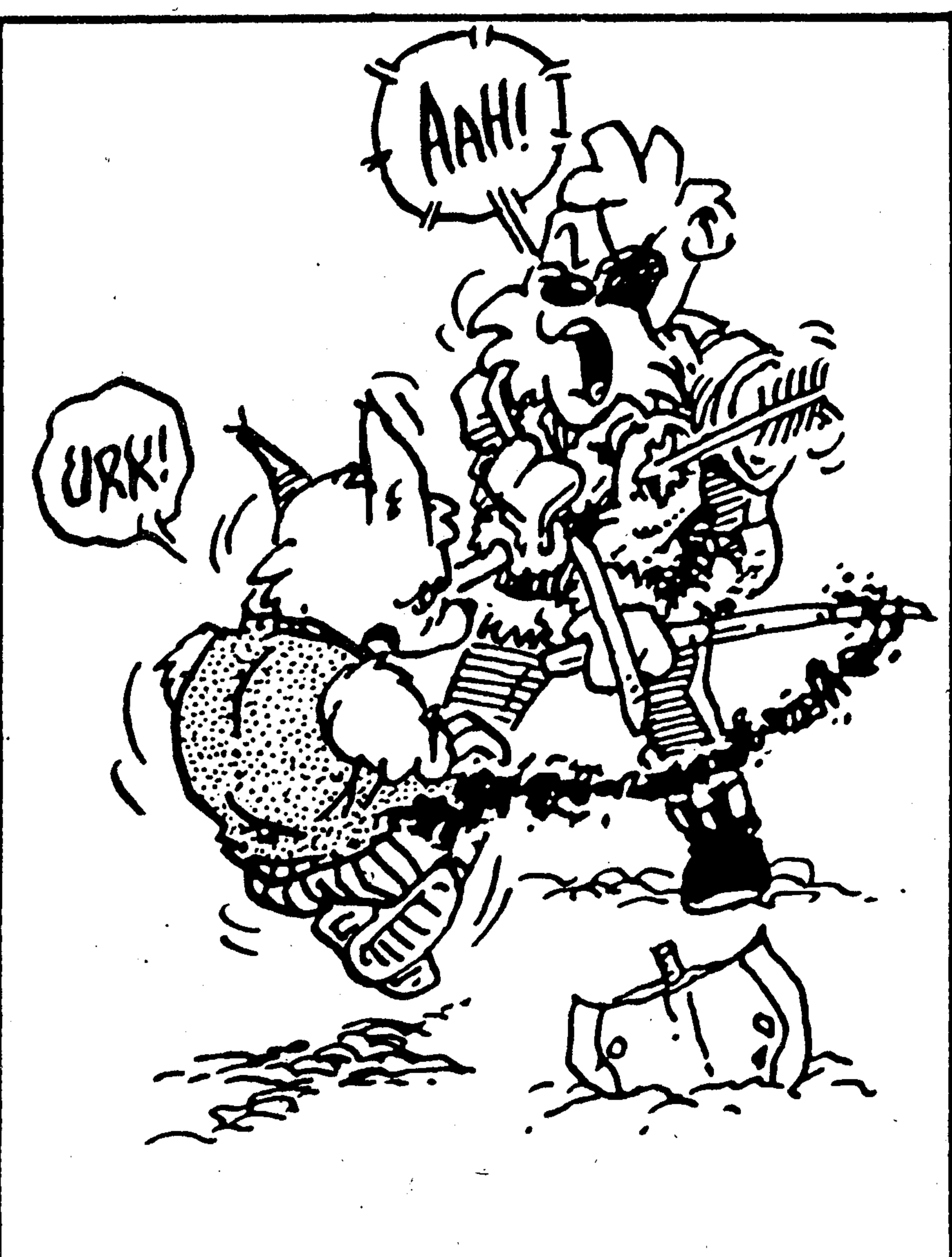
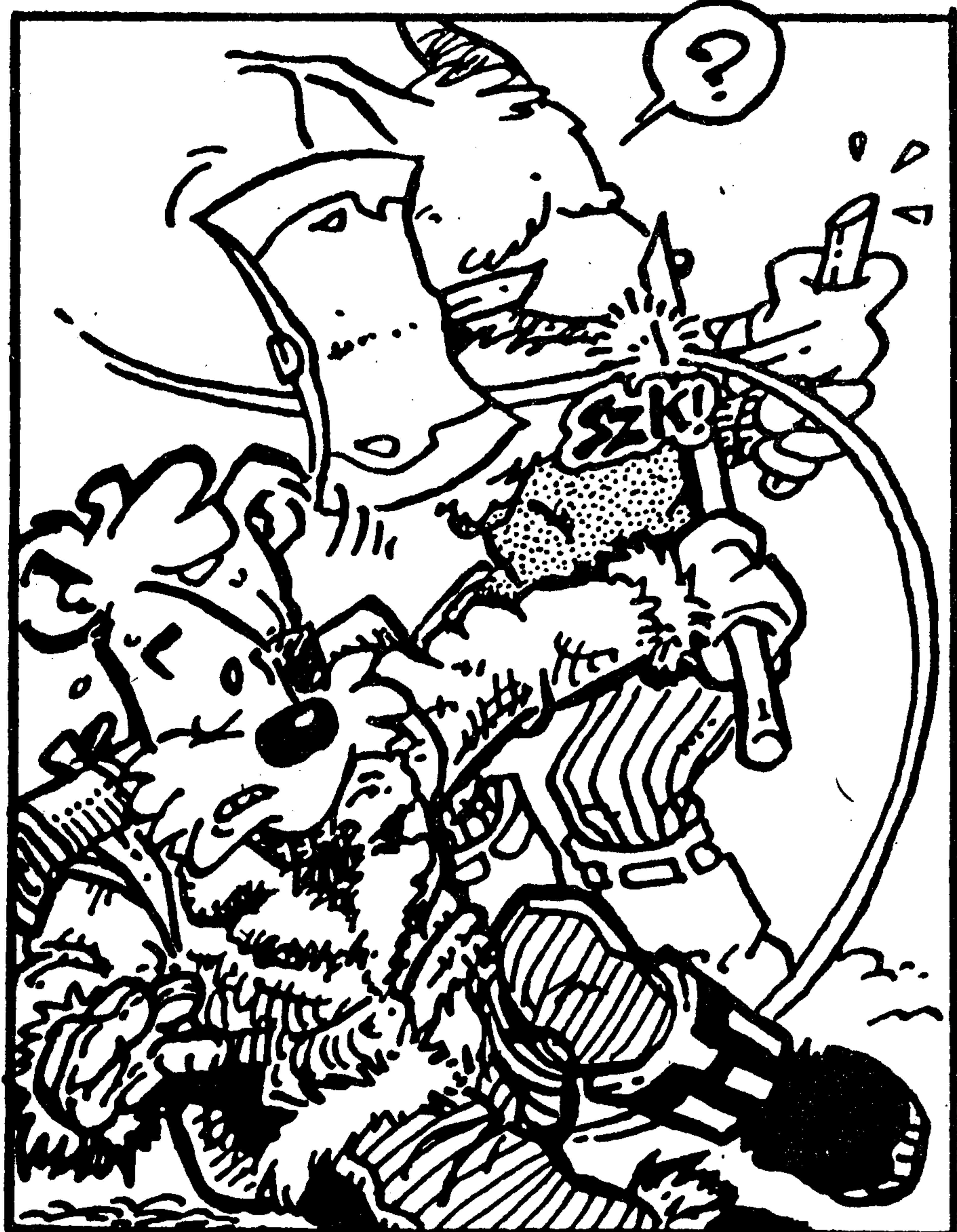
BY
DARKO
MACAN

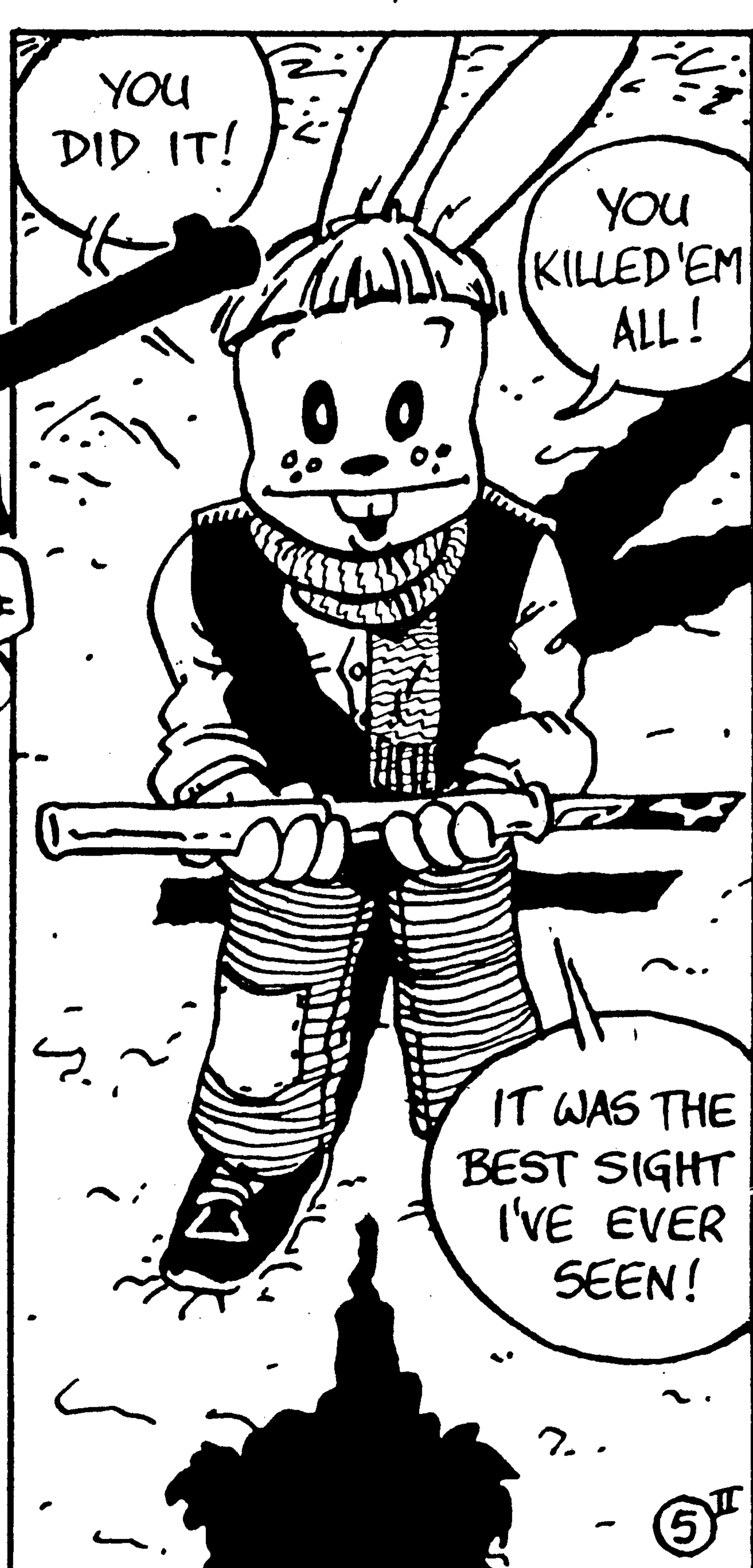



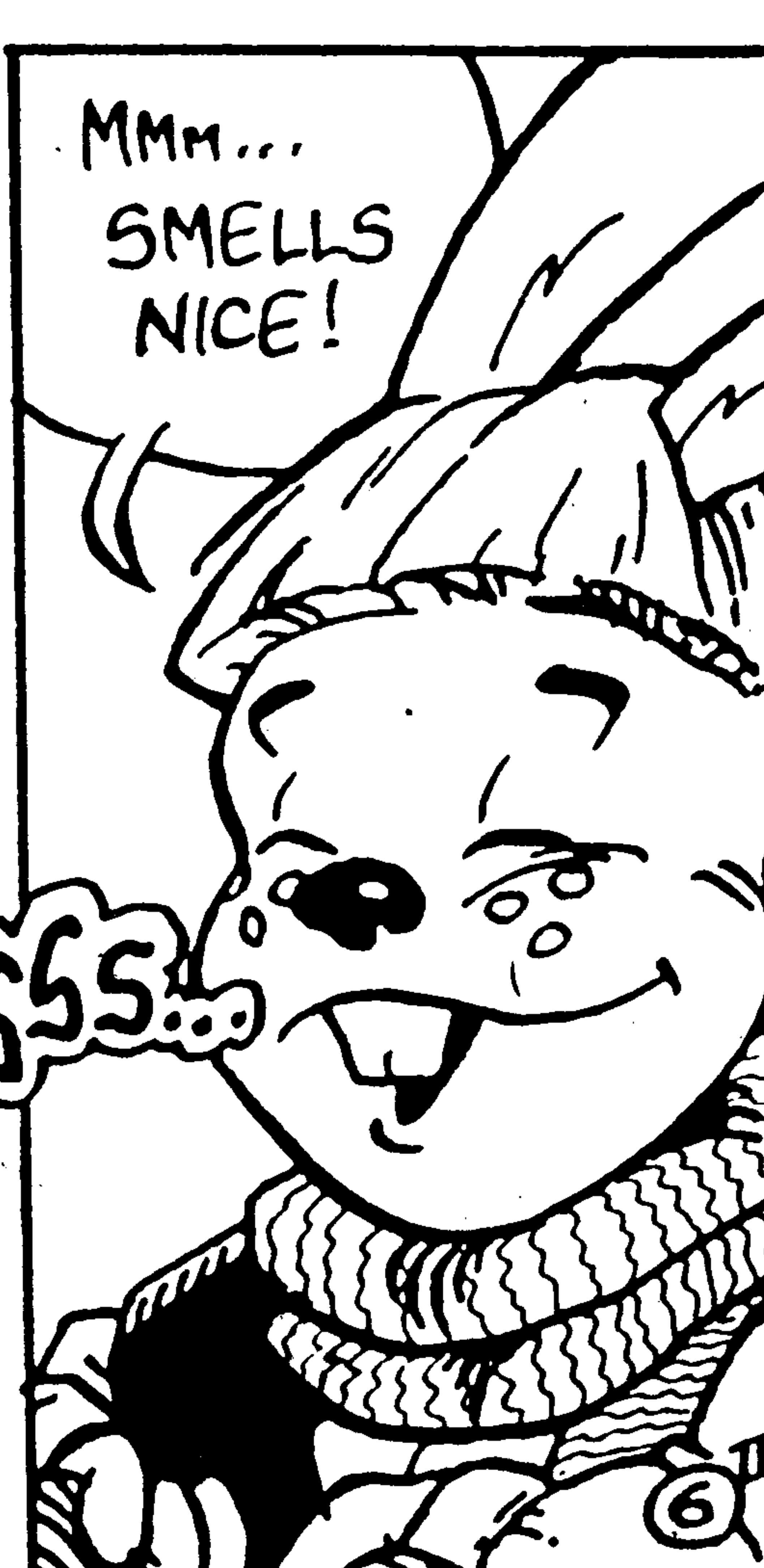
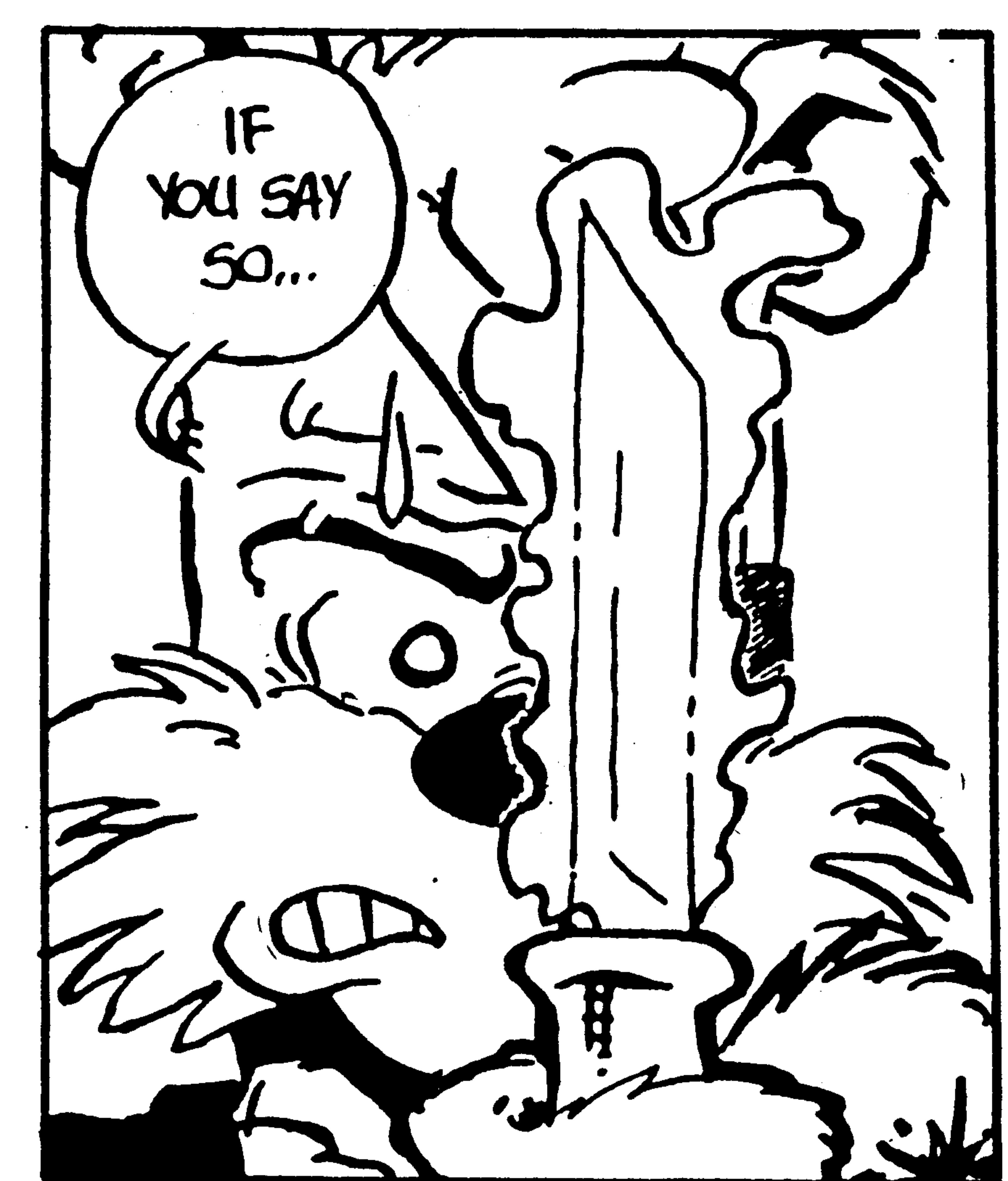



SNAP!











I SAW ENOUGH OF HIS
KIND, SON! SCUM!
SCUM THAT KILLS
FOR MONEY!

THEY'LL DO
ANYTHING
FOR IT!

OH, I DON'T KNOW...
I MAY DO YOU IN
FOR NOTHING!

LISTEN:
THE SOONER
YOU PAY ME, THE
SOONER I'LL
LEAVE...

YOU MERCENARIES ARE MAD
DOGS! TRASH! ALMOST AS
COLD AND GREEDY AS
YOU'RE STUPID!...


DAD?!

WE HIRED
THOSE FIVE YOU
KILLED TO GUARD US
FROM YOU! AND WE
HIRED YOU TO
SAVE US FROM
THEM!

AND
YOU BOUGHT IT!
BIG, BAD MERCE-
NARIES FELL INTO
PEASANT'S TRAP!
KILLED EACH
OTHER FOR OUR
AMUSEMENT!

CONGRATU-
LATIONS! YOU'RE
THE MADDEST
DOG OF THEM
ALL
...

...BUT WE
CAN CURE
THAT!



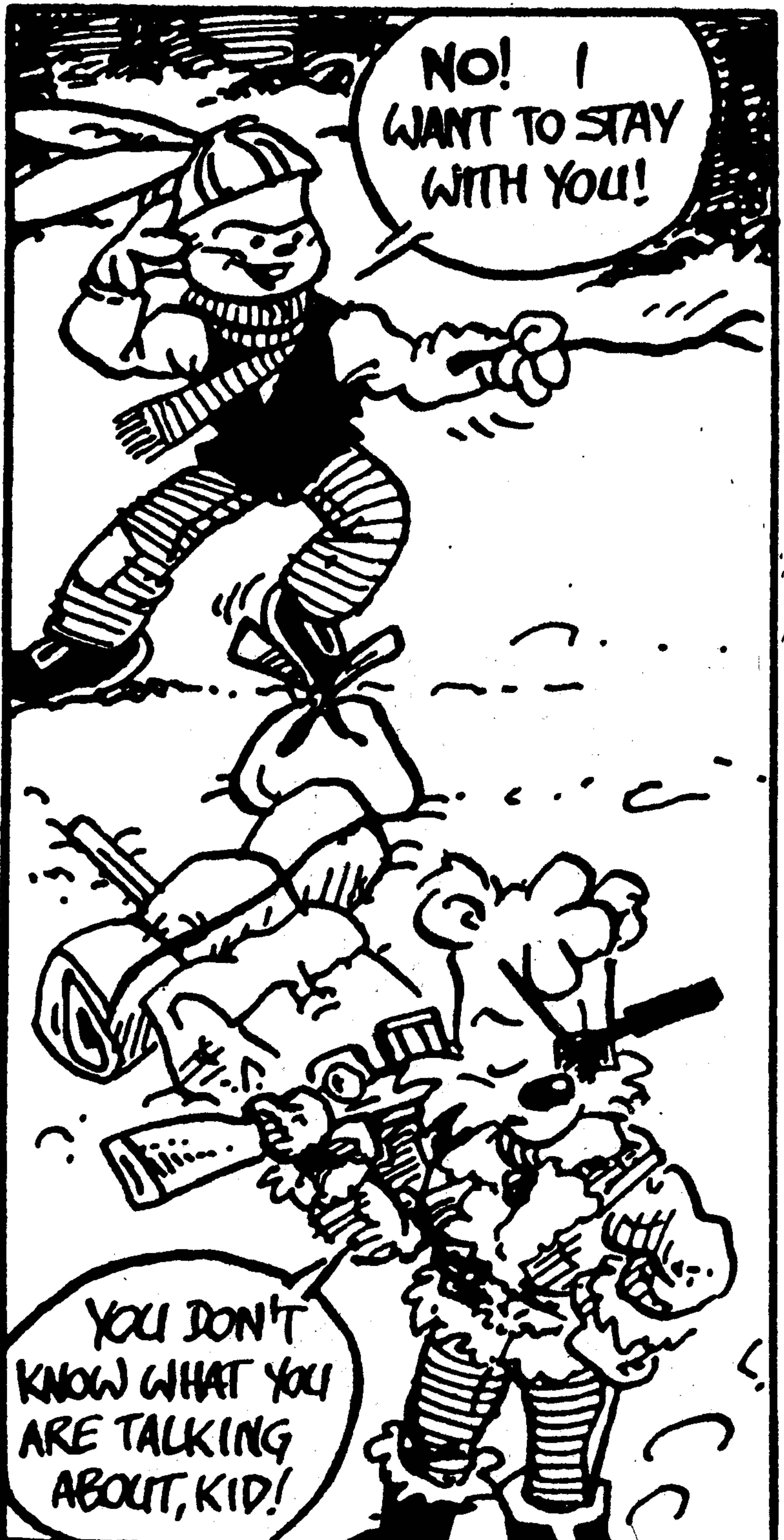
THERE'S NO
ONE BEHIND
US. GOOD!

YOU
MAY GO
BACK!

NO! I
WANT TO STAY
WITH YOU!

I WANT TO BE A WARRIOR
LIKE YOU! BETTER
AND STRONGER THAN
ANYONE! I WANT
EVERYONE AFRAID
OF ME!

YOU DON'T. YOU DON'T
WANT TO BE SOUGHT
IN NEED AND PUSHED
AWAY WHEN IT'S
OVER.



YOU DON'T WANT
NOT TO HAVE A PLACE
TO REST.

YOU DON'T
WANT TO BELONG
NOWHERE AND TO
NOBODY.

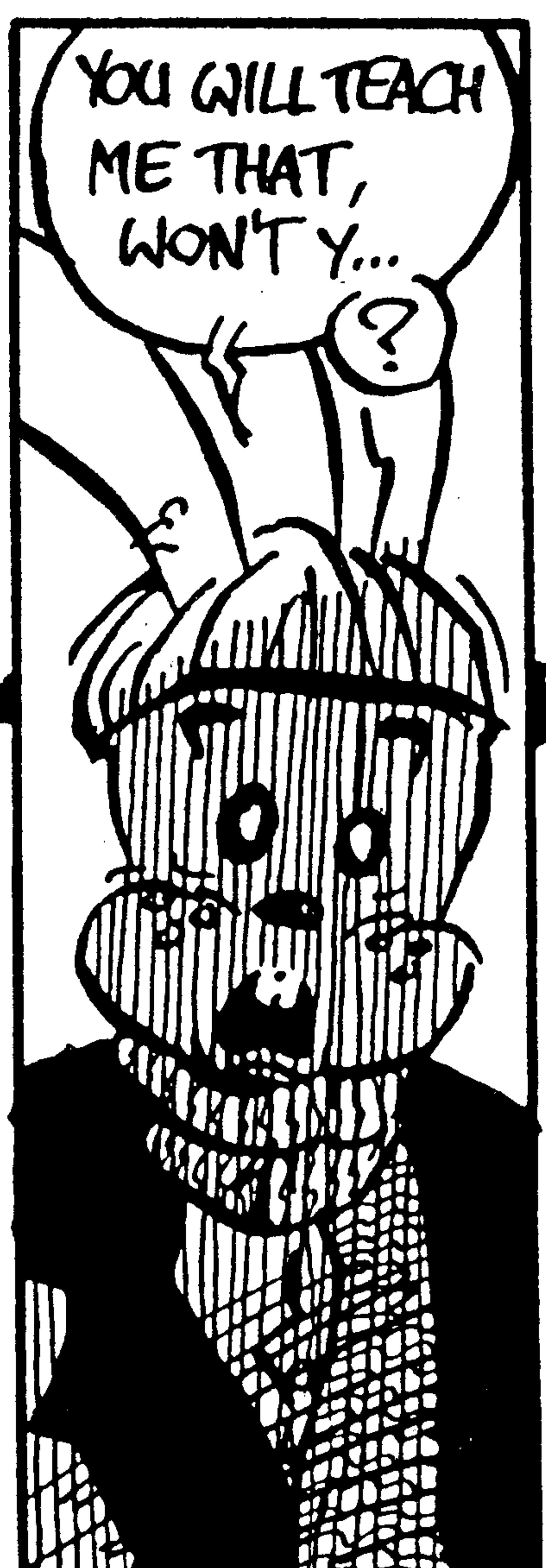
I DO!
I DON'T NEED
ANYBODY!



THEN I'LL HAVE TO
TEACH YOU WHAT BEING
A WARRIOR IS ALL
ABOUT!

YOU
WILL?!

READY?
STRIKE
FIRST!

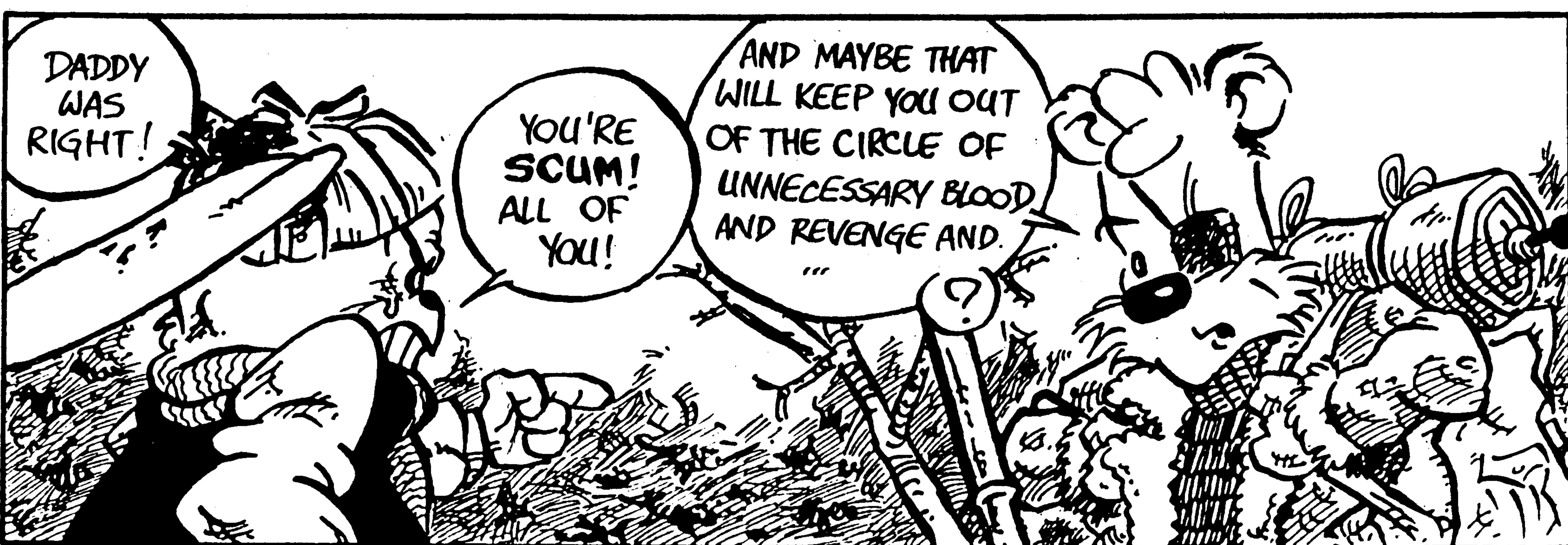
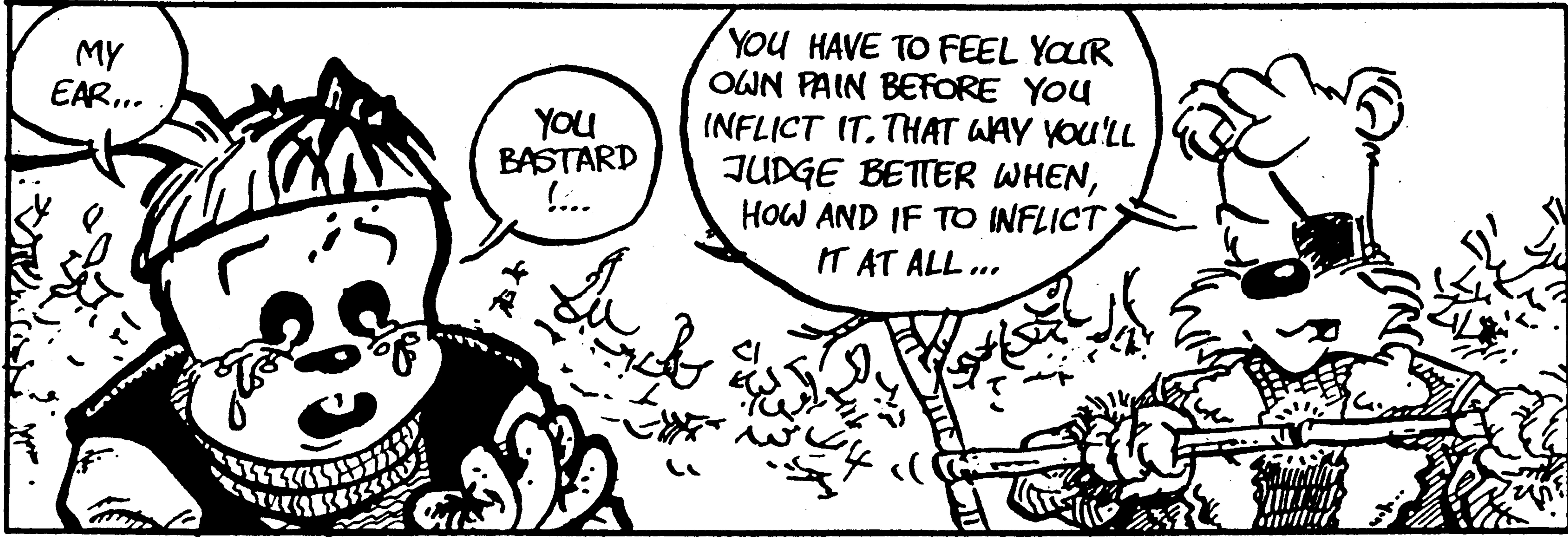


MY EAR!
YOU CUT OFF
MY EAR!

EARS, ARMS,
EYES... THAT'S
NOT IMPOR-
TANT.

PAIN
IS.





THE DOG LAUNDRY

A STORY OF A MAN, NED, AND HIS DOG, HUCK

WHO ARE © COPYRIGHT BY MARC SCHIRMEISTER '92

PLOT BY MARC "UNCA SCHIRM" SCHIRMEISTER

ART BY KJARTAN "YES, IT'S A REAL NAME" ARNORSSON



HUCK'S DRIVING ME CRAZY! HE KEEPS
GETTING FILTHY, AND THEN WON'T
LET ME WASH HIM, 'CAUSE THE BIG
COWARD'S SCARED OF BATHS!
THE APARTMENT'S STARTING
TO STINK LIKE A SEWER...
HOW DO YOU GET YOUR
DOG IN THE
TUB?

HEMM....

I DO BELIEVE I HAVE THE SOLUTION
TO YOUR PROBLEM, NED, OL' BOY. I
SOMETIMES TAKE BORIS TO THIS
NEW PLACE CALLED THE
DOG LAUNDRY!

EH?

THEY'D BETTER HAVE SOME
MUSCULAR ATTENDANTS,
THEN. HUCK'S A BIG DOG.

I'M SURE THE UNIONS LOVE 'EM
FOR THAT. BUT SO WHAT? HUCK'S
BIGGER THAN MOST OTHER
DOGS, TOO!

OH, DEY
FIGGERED
A WAY
AROUND
DAT...


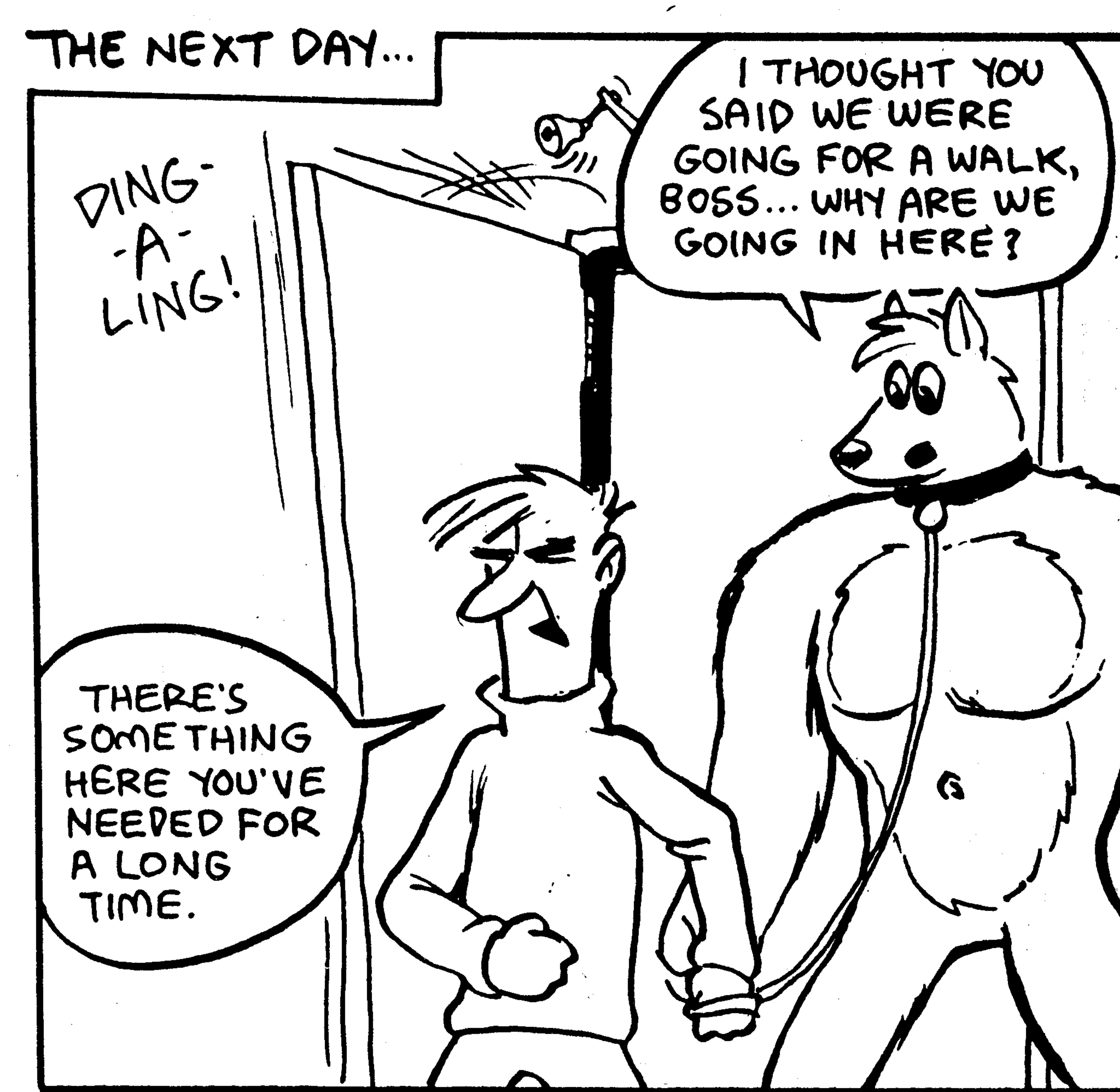
OH, THEY
DON'T USE PEOPLE
AT ALL! THEY'VE
TRAINED DOGS TO
WASH OTHER
DOGS!

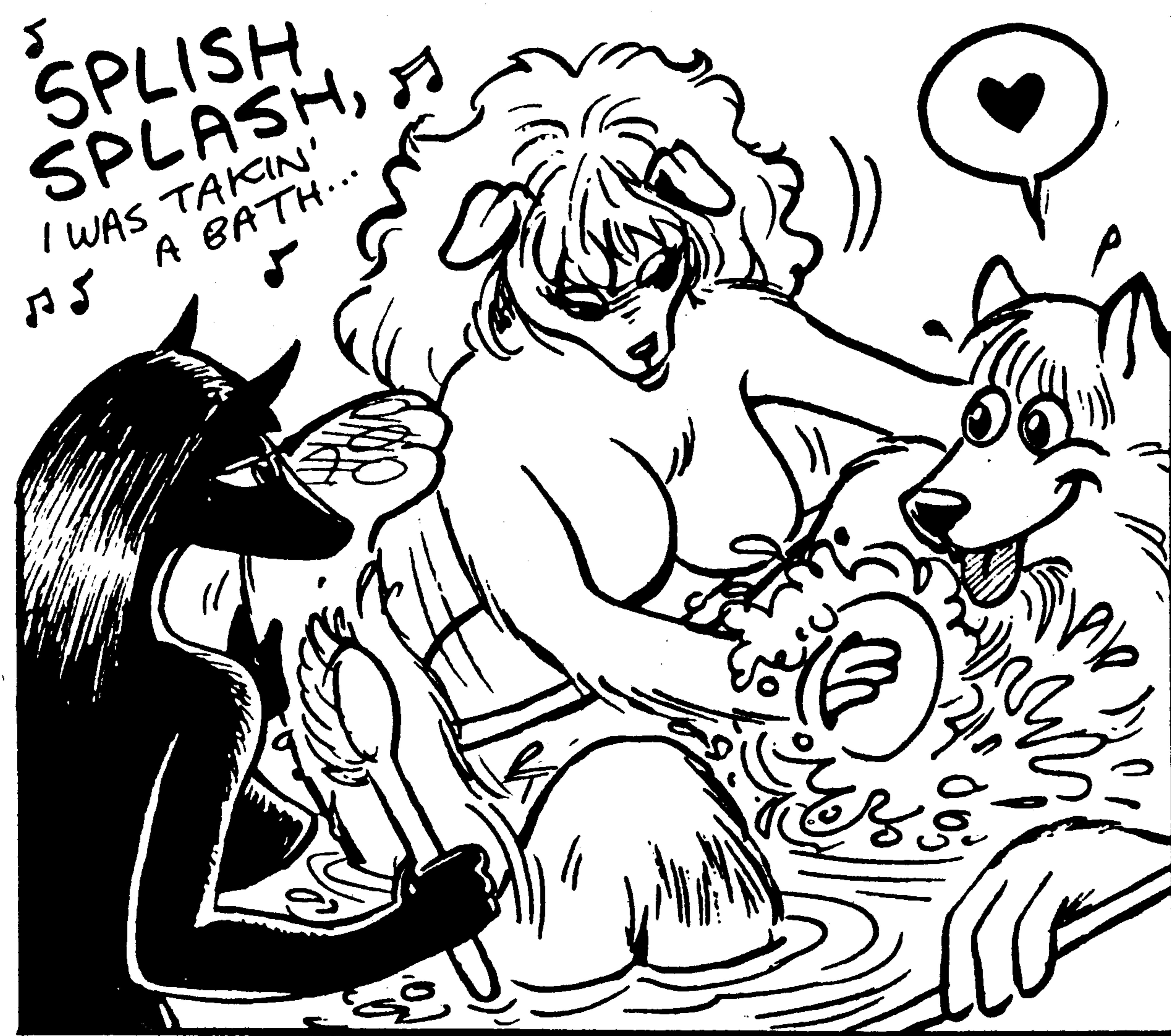
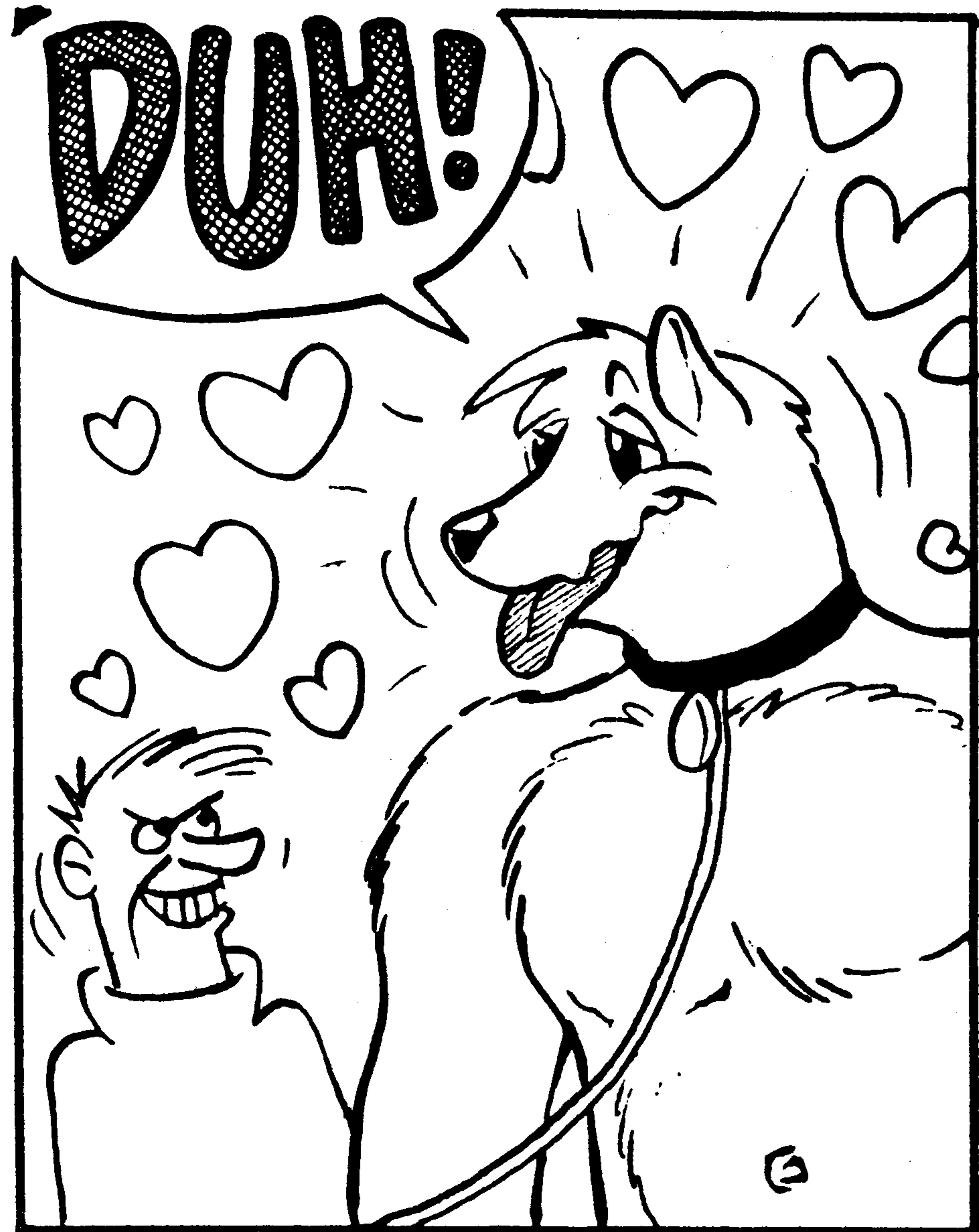
SMART,
HUH?

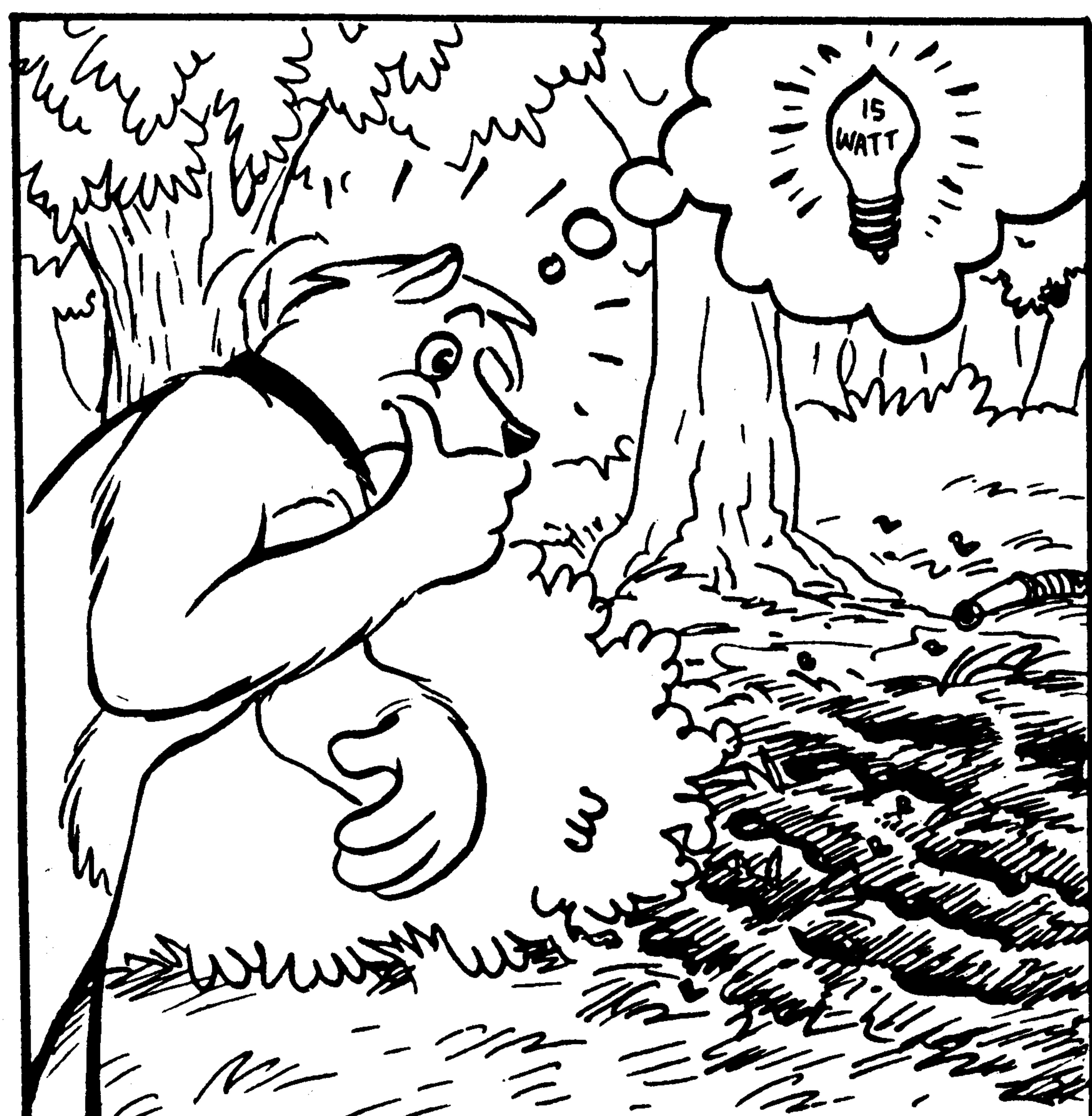

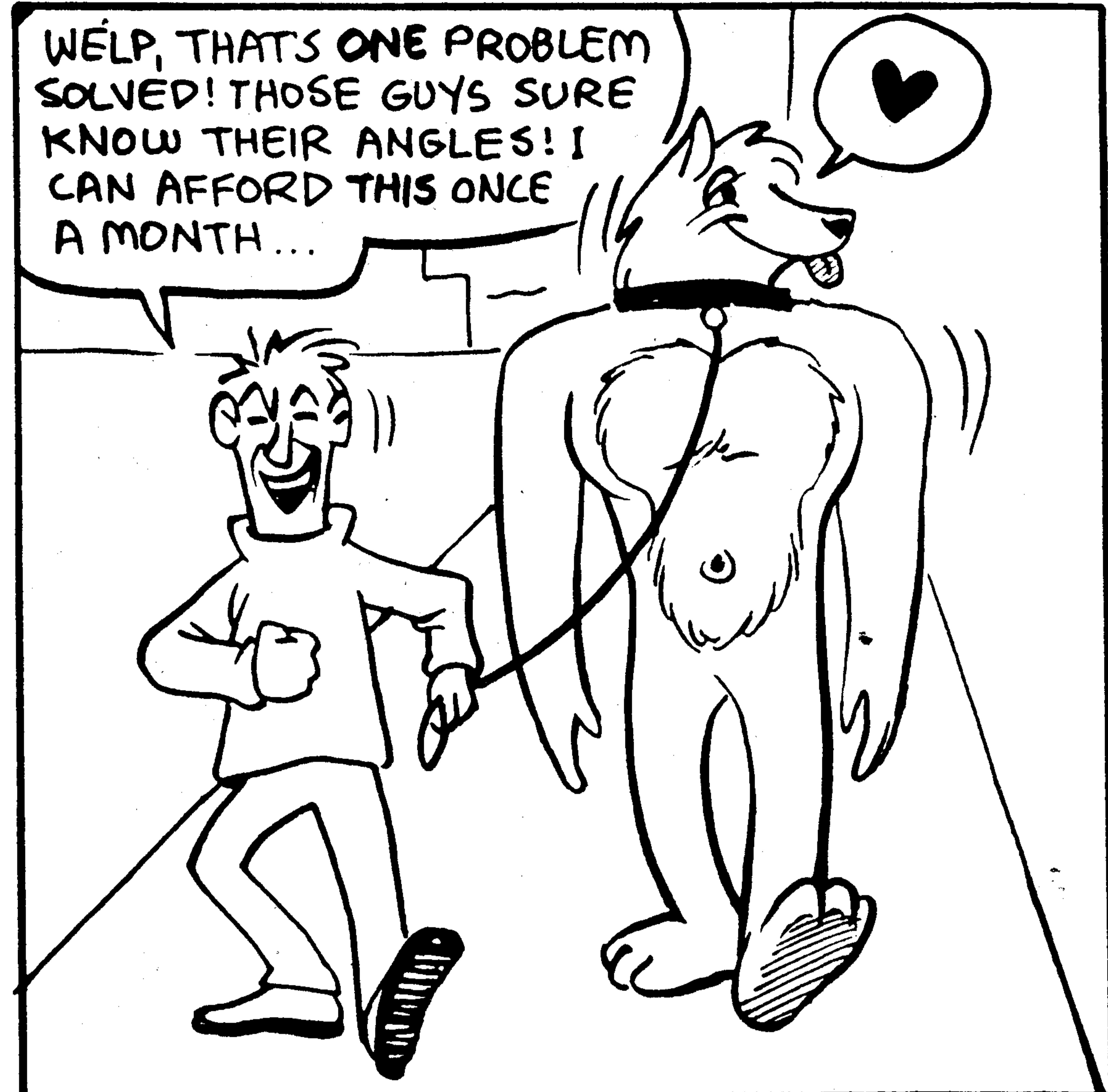
DEY HAVE THE PURTY GIRL DOGS
WASH THE BOY DOGS, AN' VISA VERSA...

OH HO....

THE NEXT DAY...







WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!
NOW WE HAVE TO GO
TO THE DOG LAUNDRY
AGAIN!!

AND SO...

AHHH...

THESE G!@%\$!! BATHS ARE NOT
CHEAP! FROM NOW ON, YOU
KEEP YOURSELF CLEAN,
GOT IT??!

YES,
BOSS...

TUESDAY...

THURSDAY...

MONDAY...

THIS HAS
GONE FAR
ENOUGH.

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!! MY DOG IS HOOKED ON
YOUR DAMN TRAINED ATTENDANTS! IT'S
BANKRUPTING ME!! IF YOU DON'T...

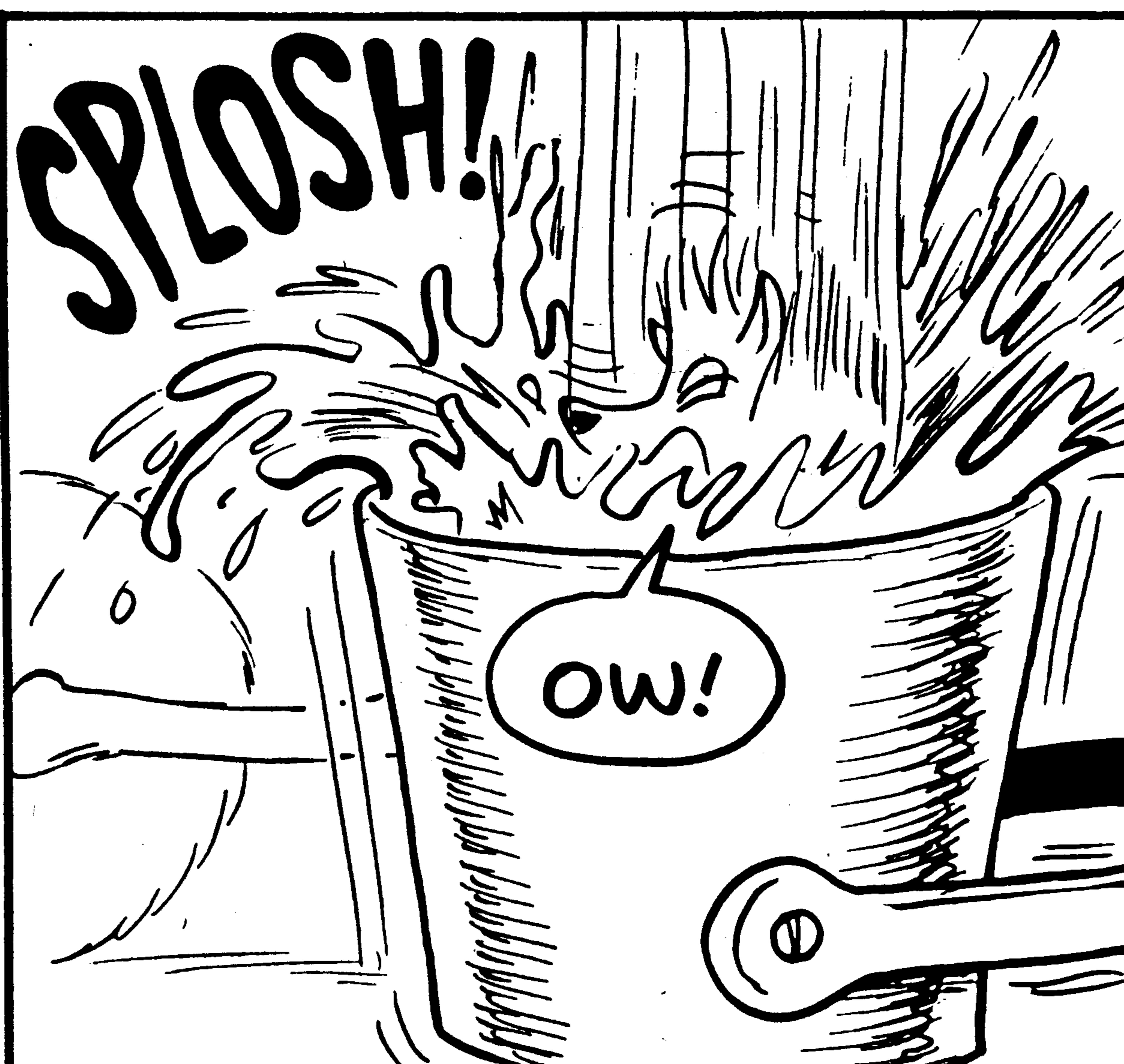
CALM YOURSELF, MR. WRECK!
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS DOG
LAUNDRY'S WATCHWORD!


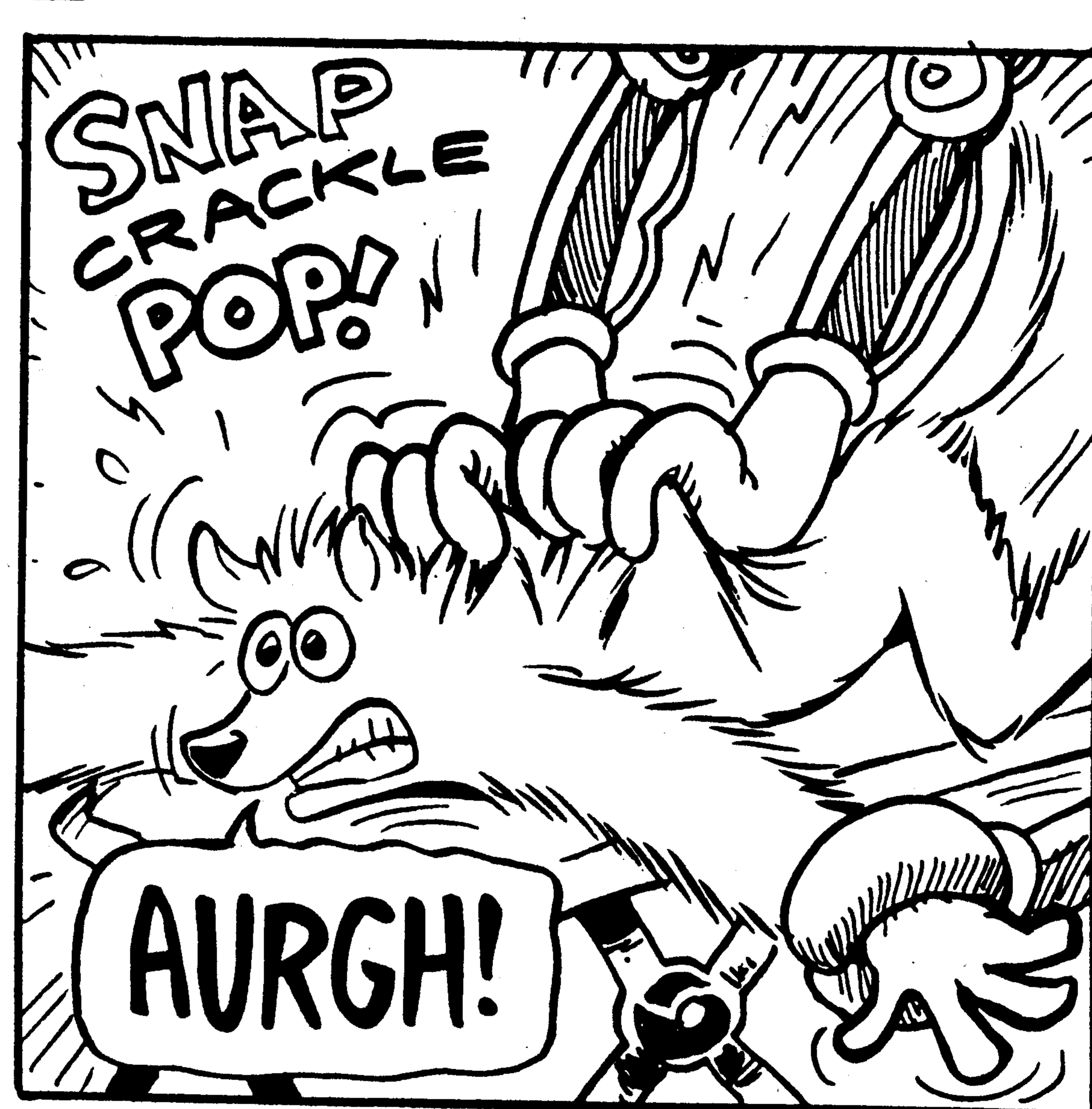
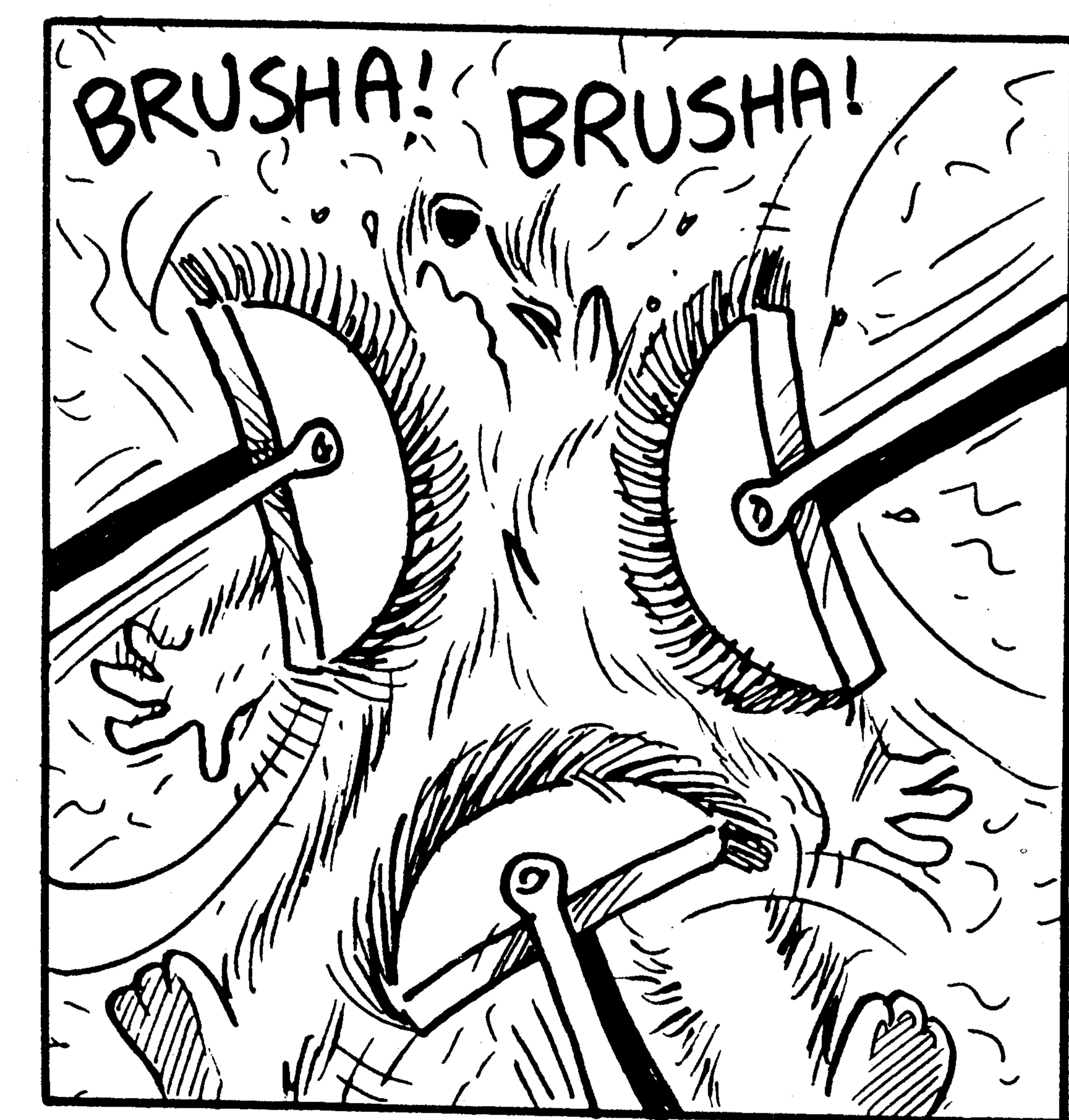
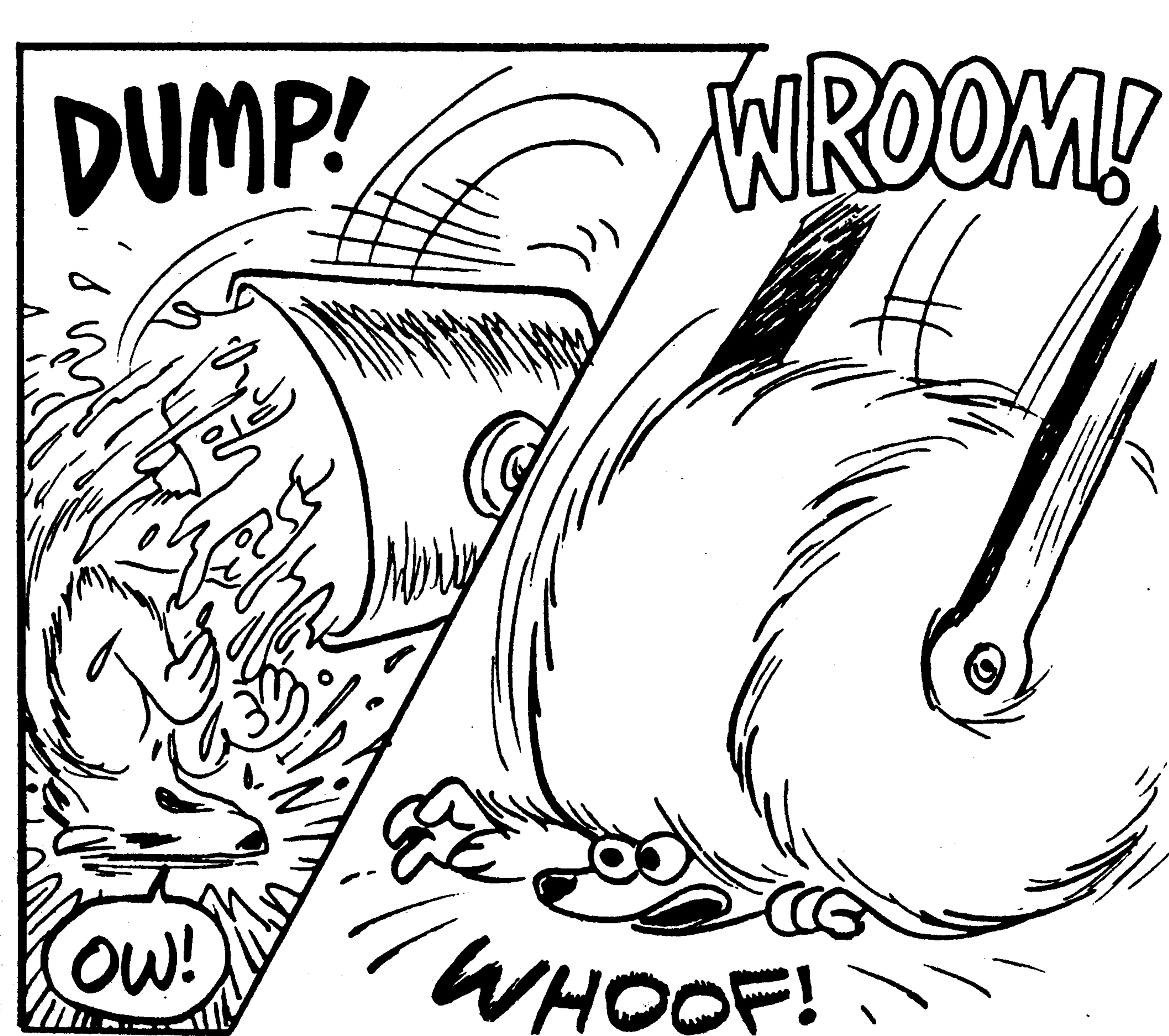
THIS PROBLEM HAS COME UP BEFORE.
BUT WE HAVE A "TREATMENT" THAT IS
GUARANTEED TO CURE YOUR DOG'S
ADDICTION...

...FOR A SLIGHT
EXTRA FEE, RIGHT?

...EXACTLY.

THEY
REALLY DO
KNOW THEIR
ANGLES AROUND
HERE!





LATER...

WHY THE LONG FACE, NED, OL' BOY?
DIDN'T YOU CURE HUCK'S DOG
LAUNDRY HABIT?

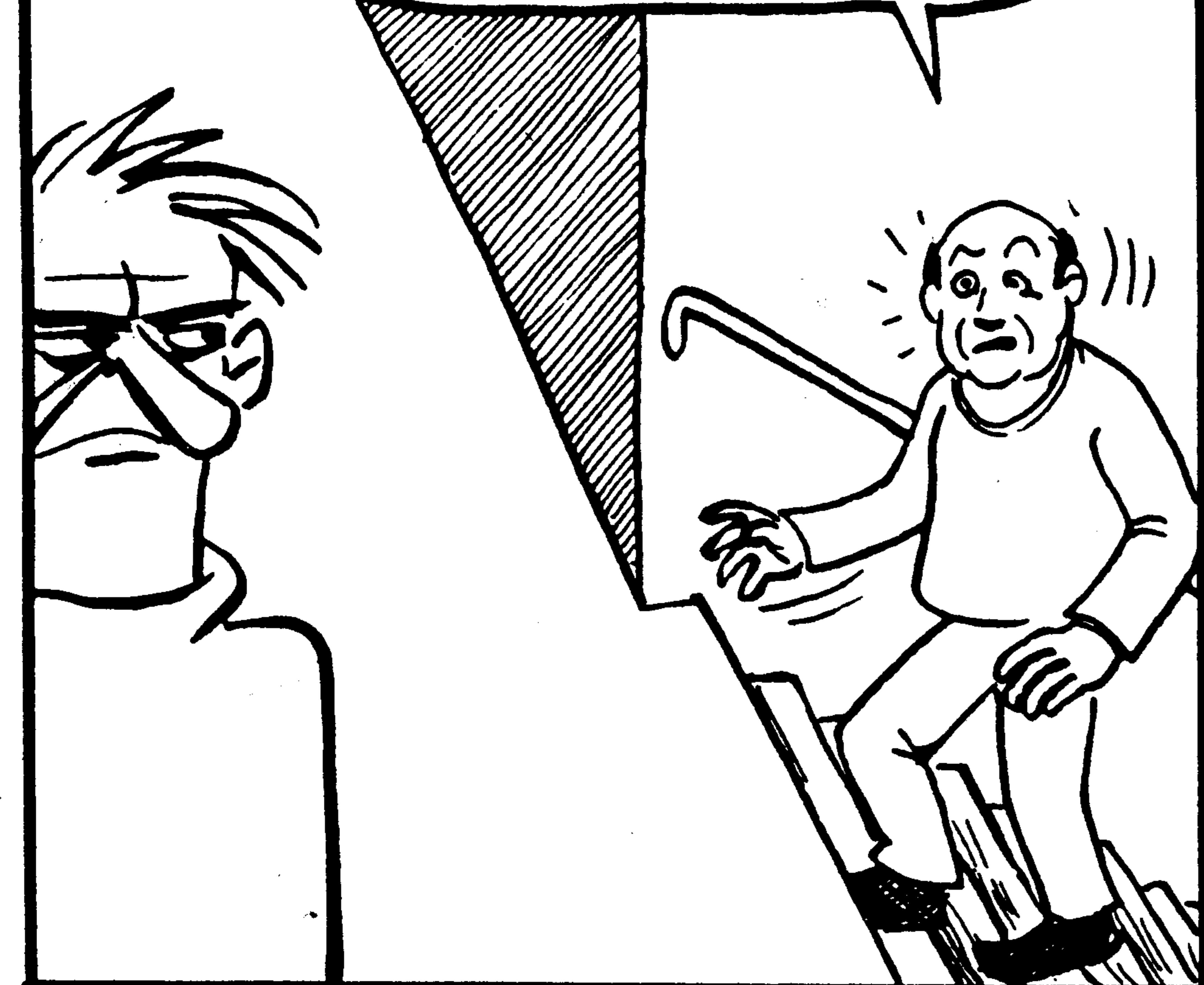
SURE DID! HUCK'S
TERRIFIED OF THE
PLACE, NOW.



IN FACT, HE'S SO SCARED
OF HAVING TO GO BACK THERE,
HE'S STARTED WEARING
LAYERS OF RAGS TO KEEP
HIMSELF FROM
GETTING DIRTY.



WELL, HECK, THAT'S GREAT! I'D SAY
YOU GOT YOUR MONEY'S WORTH, THEN.
SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



HE NEVER TAKES
'EM OFF...



HI, BOSS!

... AND THEY'RE STARTING
TO STINK



END.

ROBERT
KAVKINA

© KREUTZMAN 900M

DEADLINE BLUES

THE DEADLINE HAS PASSED,
AND I'VE NOTHING READY
AND NO IDEAS...

ON ROBERT!

I'M DOOMED


HOW VERY DROLL, KATRINA. YA NEARLY
BROKE MY NOSE. I WISH YOU WOULD USE A
MORE SUBTLE WAY TO GIVE ME IDEAS!

I'M BUSY, KATRINA.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

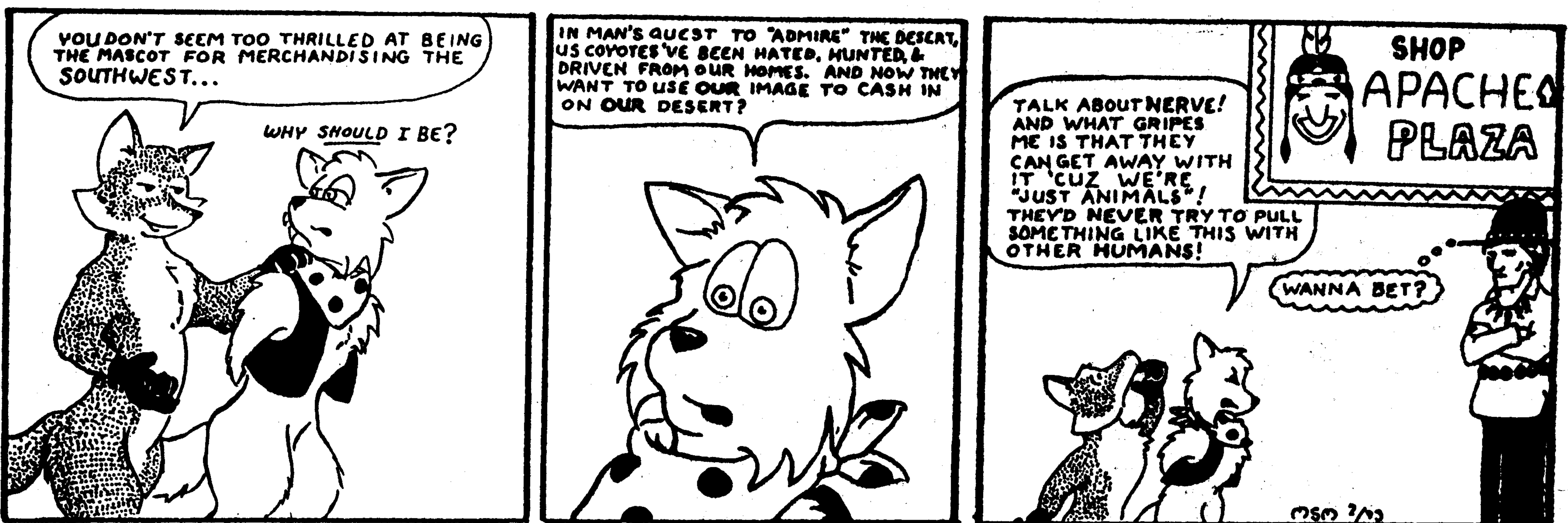

SPLAT!

CLANG!

Zonie

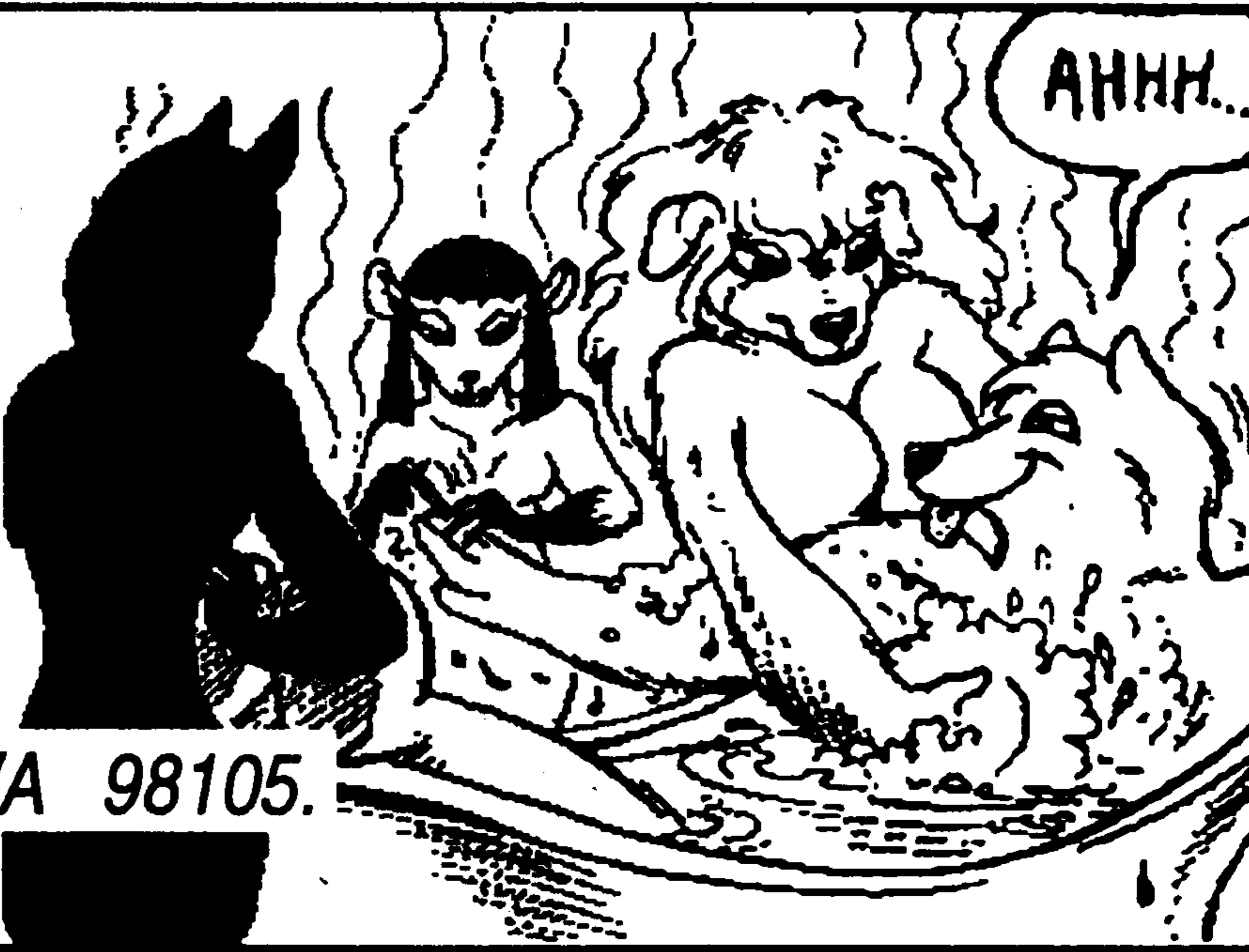


by Mike McMurry



ANIMAL CRACKERS

Send all mail to ZU, MU Press, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.
Or send e-mail to e.vick1@genie.geis.com



Okay... first off, let's make a public apology to Mike McMurry for the non-appearance of *Zonie* in the last issue. As I noted on the inside cover, the fault was mine; when we were ready to go to press, I'd accidentally set the page with *Zonie* to one side, and promptly forgot about during the final stages of assembly before shipping to the printer. I'm sorry, Mike; it won't happen again.

So *Zonie* makes his official debut in *this* issue as one of our recurring filler pages; let's give the little guy a big howl of welcome!

Darko Macan returns with his second *Sergei* strip; for other stories by Darko, check with your local shops for *Grendel: Devil's Choices* and *Tarzan: Mugambi*, now on sale from Dark Horse Comics.

The *Ned & Huck* story is a collaboration between two diverse and talented gentlemen: Marc Schirmeister has a long and honored reputation in fandom as a contributor to the original funny-animal APA, *VOOTIE*, and as the father of its successor, *ROWRBRAZZLE*. He's worked as a storyboard artist for several animation studios in recent years, and is now at DIC.

Kjartan Arnorsson hails from Iceland, and is also known in fan circles, primarily for his violent and racy material, such as *Savage Squirrel*, *Herman Orca*, and *Porno Babies*; he's also been writing and drawing *The Mink* for Antarctic Press' *Genus*.

Looking for a good furry/funny-animal fanzine to curl up with? Try one of these:

Tales Of The TAI-PAN Universe - inspired by the old *Fusion* strip, these are the adventures of the *Tai-Pan*, an independent merchant starship; the *Iktome*, a pirate ship; the *Ramanajun*, a science/exploration ship; and the *Quantum Lady*, an interstellar casino. Space adventure set in known space; stories and art by good folks like Gene Breshears, Mark Davis, Keith Johnson, Terrie Smith, Nancy Robak, and others.

Xanadu fans should be aware that ***The EverChanging Palace*** is now continuing the adventures of the Empress Alicia and cast in the latest issue with the first installment of *Xanadu: Into Golden Skies*; plus, the newest installment of *Xanadu: 2000*!

Oop! I found a letter!

Dear MU:

ZU #1: I'd already seen the story in ***Yarf!***, but it was worth getting this issue. I think this story is the best Jay Shell has ever done (that I've seen, anyway); in particular, the exaggerated anatomy of so many of his drawings is absent. The king's forgiveness is a little hard to swallow, royalty being an arrogant bunch, but in a society with electric lights, slavery is an anomaly anyway.

(Don't you believe it! Even in today's modern world, there are still a few nations that still practice some form or another of slavery; the determining factor isn't technology, but the dark compulsion to conquer and dominate another being or culture.)

As for the king, remember that he spent several years in that form, and had time to learn something of what it was like to be dominated (by the sorcerer) and be exiled. His pardon came from a personal understanding of their plight. -CM)

I appreciated the news of upcoming work in ***ZU***. As for what I'd like to see: the same sort of humorous stories whose lack of support killed ***Wild Life*** *sigh*. Taral Wayne has done some nice things in this line. Stories, definitely, not pin-ups. Length is not particularly important, except that if you're going to have multi-parters, I hope you can keep to that bi-monthly schedule.

Phillip M Cohen
White Plains, NY

Me too! Right now, we're pretty solid with our backlog of ready material, and there are a few things in the works by several creators. Our only problems of late have been caused by forces outside of our control, but for the time being, we appear to have that rectified.

Taral is currently busy at work on a one-shot in conjunction with Steve Gallacci, that we'll be publishing as soon as it is completed. In the meantime, I think you can expect to see some filler art by Taral here every now and again.

Outta room!! See you in sixty days!!

-Chuck Melville-

ÆON Focus

Valu's Views

Looking for a few views outside the ordinary? Something besides cookie-cutter superhero universes, slasher antiheroes, and this week's Bone clone? Try MU/ÆON, purveyor for 5 years of fine alternative comics featuring anthropomorphics, social satire, and heroes worthy of the name.

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COPIES BEFORE THEY'RE
ALL HOARDED AWAY!



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